

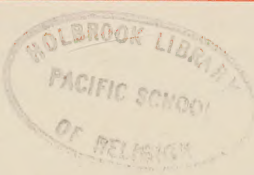
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Canadian Churches Hear Plea for Internationalized Missions

(St. Catherines, Ont.) - A missionary leader has told a meeting here that Christianity can be spread effectively overseas only if denominationalism is overcome and missions are internationalized.

Dr. Wilfred Scopes, head of the International Missionary Council's Standing Committee on the Ministry, declared that churches' present missionary enterprise is outmoded and not geared to do the job in the modern world.

What is required, he told the biennial meeting of the Canadian Council of Churches, is one Protestant mission "in the countries of growing churches". He said in India alone, where he served for 35 years, there are some 200 different Christian mission groups.

At another session Dr. W. J. Gallagher, a United Church of Canada minister and the CCC's secretary-treasurer, sharply criticized member churches for their meagre contributions to Christian work outside their own local congregations. He reported that of some \$100,000,000 contributed in four major denominations last year only 19 per cent went for work beyond parish boundaries.

The Council also heard an admonition that Canadian churches should not criticize South Africa's racial segregation policies unless they are ready to condemn Canada's anti-Asian immigration laws.

Dr. R. M. Bennett, secretary of the Council's Department of Overseas Missions, said that such laws cannot be sustained "without doing irreparable damage to our name as a nation. Certainly they would act as a grave deterrent to the Gospel when presented by a Canadian, for instance, in Korea, Hong Kong or Formosa" he added.
EPS, Geneva.

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World Council Plans First Migration Conference

(Geneva) - The first World Council of Churches' conference on migration will be held June 11 - 16, near Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council, and president of the United Lutheran Church in America, will be chairman of the conference. Attending will be 150 church experts in the field of migration sent by WCC member churches. The exact site of the conference will be announced later.

The conference will explore the migration problem in the total context of world population pressures and social and economic needs. The churches in recent years have resettled thousands of refugees, but the migration conference will tackle the wide problem of the Church in regard to migrants other than homeless political refugees.

The meeting has a three-fold purpose. It will provide an opportunity for the churches to discuss their common concern in the field of migration and determine specific responsibilities. It will advise the World Council of Churches on its future role in this field. It will make recommendations concerning the World Council and migration to the WCC's Third Assembly when it meets in New Delhi, India, late 1961.

Delegates from Europe, Asia, Latin America, North America, Australia, and Africa will take part. Preliminary study groups are preparing documents for the meeting. Mr. Baldwin Sjollem, WCC staff member who is in charge of preparations, has recently met with preparatory commissions in Canada and the United States.

Four working groups will deal with the Witness of the Church on Migration and the Reasons for the World Council's Concern; the Service of the Church to the Migrant; the Impact of Migration on the Life of the Church; and Migration Problems of Asians and Africans.

A number of sharp questions will be posed. They include: What have the churches to say about selective migration policies such as racial restrictions? What can the churches do to counteract the problems of cultural and spiritual uprootedness of migrants?

What of such special cases as those of Puerto Rican migrants in the United States, and Algerians in France, who are citizens of the countries to which they move?

Such problems as how to prevent the failure of migrants in their new countries and the effects that ethnic churches organized for the benefit of immigrants have upon the total Christian community, will also be studied, as well as the role of the churches toward non-Christian migrants from Asia and Africa.


The conference will consider a statement made by the East Asia Christian Conference which says that the World Council has a responsibility beyond encouraging its member churches to minister to those people who are migrating. It is also the responsibility of the Council, the EACC statement said "to exert its maximum influence against the political, economic, and racial barriers to migration which Asian peoples.... frequently suffer".

EPS, Geneva.

Baptists Ask Preservation of School System

(Savannah, Ga.) - The Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia has called upon state officials to "ensure" that public schools remain open despite a state law requiring them to be closed if racial integration is attempted.

The resolution, adopted almost unanimously, said that "our public schools are essential to the preservation of our democratic way of life".



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The resolution was a substitute for a report by the Convention's Social Service Committee which declared that "forced integration of the races in public schools would violate" our religious practice and sense of practical right". Since the substitute motion was carried there was no vote on the commission report.

The commission report had been attacked earlier as "objectionable" in part by the Christian Index, official weekly publication of the Convention.

The schools in Atlanta are under federal court order to integrate in the lower grades next year. EPS, Geneva.

Ministers Trained for New Tasks in Mexico

(Mexico City) - A short course in industrial evangelism to help prepare ministers for their special tasks in meeting problems in rapidly industrializing Mexico has been conducted for the first time at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Mexico City.

The five-day course was held by Dr. Marshal L. Scott, dean of the United Presbyterian Institute of Industrial Relations, Chicago, Ill.. Describing the course, Dr. Scott said he views the rise of industrialization in previously underdeveloped countries as "the most significant trend in the 1960's".

He noted that in the past ten years Mexico's population has risen to 35,000,000 and that its barter and handicraft trades are fast giving way to industrial mechanization. As a result, he said, millions of persons have left their farms for factory jobs and live in temporary communities hastily thrown up on the edges of big cities. EPS, Geneva.

Quaker "Peace Vigil" Marks Anniversary of First Petition

(Washington, D.C.) - More than 800 members of the Society of Friends participated in a three-day vigil outside the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and presented a petition denouncing warfare to President Eisenhower.

The vigil marked the 300th anniversary of the first peace petition presented by Quakers to King Charles II of England in 1660.

The petition delivered to President Eisenhower incorporated exactly the same words that George Fox and other founders of the Society addressed to the English monarch three centuries ago.

"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever," it said. "The spirit of Christ by which we are guided is not changeable, ... and we do certainly know and testify to the World... that the Spirit of Christ will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world." EPS, Geneva.

Churches Aid Pakistani Flood Victims

(Geneva) - Contributions totaling more than \$8,000 have been sent by the churches to aid victims of the disastrous floods in East Pakistan. An estimated 10,000 persons have lost their lives and another 200,000 persons are reported homeless as the result of two tidal waves which struck the coastal region of East Pakistan. Property damage is estimated in excess of \$20,000,000.

Response to an appeal issued by the East Asia Christian Conference came from the churches in Burma, \$1,000; the churches in Formosa, \$100; the New Zealand Council of Churches, \$1,000 and the Australian Council of Churches which sent \$560 and has promised an additional \$2,800.

The appeal was made by the EACC following a visit to the area by U Kyaw Than, EACC assistant general secretary.

Contributions from churches in the west include \$5,600 from the British Council of Churches and \$4,000 from Church World Service (USA).

The churches have also contributed funds to aid needy in several other areas in response to appeals issued by the Division of Inter-Church Aid of the World Council of Churches. These were for refugees from the Congo who have fled to Togoland, \$5,600 from the British Council of Churches; and to Ruandi Urundi, \$2,800 from the British Council and \$112 from the Australian Council; for repair of typhoon-damaged churches in the Philippines, \$6,566 from churches in Britain, New Zealand and Australia.

Aid for victims of tribal uprisings in the Bamileke area of the Cameroons has also come from churches in three countries. In this area it has been reported that from 15,000 to 20,000 persons have been killed by terrorists in the past six months, school children abducted, over 300 churches destroyed and the missionaries expelled.

Aid has included \$5,600 from the British Council, \$1,022 from the New Zealand Council of Churches and \$224 from the Australian Council of Churches.

EPS, Geneva.

South African Anglicans Seek Better Inter-Church Relations

(Capetown) - A motion assuring South Africa's Anglican bishops of the full support of the clergy and laity in their efforts to maintain and strengthen contacts with other Christian bodies in the country was submitted on Sunday to the opening session of the National Synod of the Anglican Church.

The motion referred especially to relations with the Dutch Reformed Church which has disputed the stand taken by Anglican leaders against the South African government's apartheid policies.

It asks that there be "humble study of the application of New Testament principles to the circumstances of our time".

Presiding officer of the Synod, which is held every five years, is Dr. Joost de Blank, Archbishop of Capetown.

EPS, Geneva.

Methodists To Fight Race Discrimination

(Washington, D. C.) - A large-scale four-year programme of race relations under the auspices of the Methodist Church designed eventually to involve more than 1,000,000 Methodists will get underway with an orientation conference for two hundred leaders at Louisville, Ky., March 20 - 24, 1961.

Following the conference the delegates will organize in 39 regional consultative groups to plan meetings dealing with racial issues with local church groups and individuals, and leadership training programmes. The groups will also co-operate with other denominations and community agencies of similar purposes.

By 1963, the goal is to have 100 consultative committees within each region, involving some 30,000 persons. By 1964, each of these groups would be called upon to establish similar groups in as many local churches as possible, with the eventual goal being to involve one million or more persons.

EPS, Geneva.

Puerto Rican Voters for Munoz Marin Face Penalty

(San Juan) - Puerto Ricans who voted for the Popular Democratic Party of Governor Luis Munoz Marin in the recent election in defiance of the orders of their ecclesiastical authorities have been told they will be punished by the church for committing a sin of disobedience.

Archbishop James F. Davis, of San Juan, said in a letter to the island's Roman Catholic priests that punishment should be imposed in proportion to the seriousness of the guilt, including the censures, which cover excommunication.

At San Juan Cathedral on Sunday, the pastor, Father Thomas Maisonet announced that Madame Felisa Rincon de Gauthier, the mayor of Puerto Rico and a member of the Governor's party, must express her repentance for support of the party through the press, radio and television before receiving communion.

Father Maisonet said that in addition to acknowledging her guilt, the mayor and others who voted for the governor must also promise, as a condition for absolution, not to support the party in the future unless it changes its philosophy.

Governor Munoz Marin won re-election by a landslide vote and his party was returned to a majority in the legislature, despite a pre-election warning by three of Puerto Rico's Roman Catholic bishops not to vote for the Party because of its support of birth control, tolerance of common law marriages and other issues. (See EPS, No.43)
EPS, Geneva.

Lutheran to Confer With Vatican Officials

(Copenhagen) - Professor K. E. Skydsgaard, of Copenhagen, director of the inter-confessional research programme of the Lutheran World Federation, will pay a second visit to Rome in January to develop further contacts with Roman Catholic officials preparing for the Second Vatican Council. He made a first visit to the Vatican in May.

The Vatican Council will be the subject of articles by continental and US Lutheran theologians in a book to be edited by Professor Skydsgaard. Slated for publication next year it will analyze the Council to show its significance for church unity from the viewpoint of the Lutheran Reformation.
EPS, Geneva.

In Brief

The Anglican and Eastern Churches Association, a pioneer body seeking to foster better relations between the two confessions, held its 96th annual festival recently in London. The speaker was the Rev. Peter Bide, secretary of the Faith and Order Commission of the British Council of Churches. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Anthony of Sergievo celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the service preceeding the meeting. Those attending included the Lord Bishop of London, Anglican president of the Association, and a number of Orthodox clergy of various nationalities.

* *

Pope John XXIII is reported taking English lessons in preparation for his talks with the Archbishop of Canterbury in early December. The British Broadcasting Corporation is negotiating for a film interview with the Pontiff in which he would speak English. If arrangements for the film can be made, it is slated for showing December 1 in the British Isles.

* *

South Africa's 1,100,000 Roman Catholics will hear sermons during the next few weeks condemning the colour bar. Mgr. Denis Hurley, Archbishop of Durban, has ordered the series of sermons preached in his Archdiocese in a campaign to "destroy colour prejudice among our people".

* *

For the fifth year representatives of Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches in Sydney, Australia, are co-operating in conducting a Crusade for a Christian Christmas. Theme of this year's crusade is "The Prince of Peace for Peace on Earth". The inter-faith crusade committee has distributed posters and other advertisements in Sydney and nearby areas and plans special carol services, a tableau and other events in an effort "to place emphasis on the true meaning of Christmas".

* *

More than 29,530,000 copies of the Scriptures, an all-time record, were distributed throughout the world in 1959 by member groups of the United Bible Societies. A report of the ABS in New York noted that of the total, more than 500,000 copies went to East Germany, another 140,000 to Africa and 3,229,000 to Asia.

* *

Lutheran Bishop Anders Nygren of Sweden will arrive in the USA early next year to spend fourteen months at the Ecumenical Institute at Evanston, Ill., as the second research scholar to join the institute through a grant from the Danforth Foundation, St. Louis. Canon Theodore Wedel, warden emeritus of the College of Preachers, Washington, D. C., arrived in September to begin a year of study at the Institute.

* *

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Zealand has called upon its 2,000 members "to work in the capacity of Christian citizens for the elimination of discrimination whenever it may exist, in community, city, state, nation and world".

* *

The St. Willibrord Association in Utrecht, Holland, in a move to develop closer contacts between Catholics and Protestants, has distributed special brotherhood posters for display in Roman Catholic churches in the Netherlands. The posters show two figures with outstretched hands. The inscription reads, "Meet the Other... in Sincerity and Openness".

* *

Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, leading Protestant theologian and author, has received the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany for his support, during the last days of the war, of a humane approach to Germany. Dr. Niebuhr retired vice-president of Union Theological Seminary, New York, was presented with the award in New York.

* *

The United States Supreme Court in a brief six to three *per curiam* (by the court) ruling had denied a second hearing to Dr. Willard Uphaus, a Methodist layman and pacifist, who has spent eleven months in prison for refusing to reveal to a state legislative committee the names of participants at meetings at his World Fellowship Centre, in New Hampshire.

* *

Special ReportCeylon Senate Votes Schools Take-Over

(Colombo) - The Senate, by a vote of 19 to 6, with two abstentions, has ratified a bill to allow the government to take over Ceylon's 2,500 private state-assisted schools.

Nearly all of the schools involved are operated by religious organizations. Most seriously affected by the measure are 750 Roman Catholic Schools which have an enrollment of 250,000 pupils of whom about 65% are Catholics. Protestant school enrollment is approximately 140,000 students, the great majority of whom are Buddhist or Hindu.

The measure, the most controversial thus far in the four-month old government of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, has been vigorously opposed by the large majority of Christians and Hindus, although the Buddhists, by far Ceylon's religious group, are understood generally to favour the move.

Opponents of the measure have generally tended to interpret it as based on religious prejudice, although the government has insisted it is required to give equal educational opportunities to all Ceylonese. It has also been alleged that the government has yielded to Communist pressure in the move. Many foreigners in Colombo, however, reportedly feel the legislation stems from the intensely nationalistic fervour of the present government and that of the Prime Minister's late husband, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, who was assassinated in September, 1959, while Prime Minister.

At the same time, some church leaders have welcomed the take over as a solution to a situation which they felt to be intolerable and which was creating tension in relations with the non-Christian community. They have pointed out that under the measure the Government has promised that each religious group will be allowed to train their children in their own faith.

Most violent opposition has come from the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic bishops recently adopted a statement "calling upon all lovers of true freedom to join with us in warding off an attack on fundamental human rights". The fact that this statement was issued after the Bill was passed, has been interpreted by many, including the Prime Minister, as a deliberate incitement to resisting the law of the land.

Last week some 1,600 mothers of Roman Catholic school children staged a rally in Colombo against the plan. Mrs. Bandaranaike later issued a statement appealing for "peace and calm" and scoring "an unfortunate idea (which) seems to have gained ground in this country that an established government must yield to pressure moves such as this".

A further bill has been promised early next year defining in more detail matters relating to property, the status of teachers in former assisted schools and the provision of religious instruction. The government has made it clear that no compensation will be paid, but it is believed likely that the legal ownership of the school buildings will remain in the hands of the present proprietors.

Most private schools in Ceylon get financial support from the government, and charge no fees except nominal amounts for playground equipment and similar facilities. The few schools which do not receive government aid charge tuition fees. For decades it has been generally recognized that the schools operated by the Christian churches provide the best educational facilities and the best path for Ceylonese to future advancement, particularly in government employment. Of the 9,000,000 Ceylonese, population nearly 2,000,000 are Hindus and only about 800,000 are Christians.

EPS, Geneva.

